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Around the Rock

Town of Blowing Rock
Bi-Monthly Newsletter
Volume 4, Issue 1
February, 2010

Important Numbers

Town Hall.....295-5200
Planning & Inspection.....295-5240
Water/Sewer/Garbage.....295-5200
Parks & Recreation.....295-5222
Water - After Hours.....295-5210

Non-Emergency

Police Department.....295-5210
Fire Department.....295-5220

Upcoming Meetings

Town Council

03/09/2010 7:00 p.m.
04/13/2010 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board

03/18/2010 7:00 p.m.
04/15/2010 7:00 p.m.

ABC Board

03/18/2010 3:00 p.m.
04/15/2010 3:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

Town's 121 Birthday Party & Awards
03/11/10- 3:30 p.m. at Town Hall

Golden Easter Egg Hunt: 03/27/10
Games: 10:00 a.m. Hunt: 11:00 a.m.



Town Offices Closed- Good Friday
04/02/10

Blue Ridge Wine & Food Festival:
www.blueridgewinefestival.com
04/15/10- 04/18/10



Summer Day Camp Registration:
BR Taxpayers- 03/01/10
Open Registration- 03/15/10



Kinder T-ball Registration:
BR Taxpayers- 04/05/10
Open Registration- 04/06/10
Program Begins- 04/27/10



Reception to Honor Volunteer Boards

The Blowing Rock Town Council will honor the various Town Boards and Commissions on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 with a reception at 6:00 p.m. before their monthly Board Meeting. This reception will take place in Town Hall at 1036 Main Street.

2010 Board Appointments:

Planning Board: Debbie di Santi, David Laughter, and Ray Pickett
Board of Adjustments: Mark Klein, Annie Whatley, and David Harwood
ABC Board: Robert "Bob" Miller
TDA Board: Kent Tarbutton as Chairperson and Rob Dyer



Town Receives Stimulus Funding for Interconnection

The NC Office of Economic Recovery & Investment and the NC Department of Environmental & Natural Resources announced recently that the Town was awarded final approval of ARRA (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act) funding for our revolving loan for the Blowing Rock/Boone water interconnection. The 20 year loan was awarded as a 50% zero-interest loan and a 50% principal forgiveness loan. As a result of this award, the Town will save over \$1,600,000 in principal and interest costs for the project.

A contract with Ronny Turner Construction has been executed and work is scheduled to begin on the project in March, weather permitting.

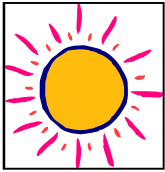
Ice Storm Debris Removal

The Town of Blowing Rock will begin the clean up process of storm debris from the December 18th snow storm and December 25th ice storm in the coming weeks. Most delays in clean up are due to continued winter weather hindering effective clean up. All town residents are encouraged to place limbs near the edge of the street as soon as possible. Please do not place any debris in the street or in any way block driveways, fire hydrants, sidewalks, or drainage culverts and ditches. Due to NC Air Quality standards, no burning is allowed within the town limits. Property owners outside of Town should coordinate debris disposal with the Watauga County Landfill.



Initial estimates place the amount of storm debris damage at \$190,000. Due to the large amount of storm debris, private contractors selected through a bid process will begin to haul debris away or chip limbs on site where possible. Town crews will assist with clean up of Town parks and public property. Overall, this clean up process will take several months possibly into spring.

Over the past month, the Town has worked closely with Watauga County Emergency Management, the NC Division of Emergency Management, and FEMA to develop a plan for clean up and reimbursement. Mayor JB Lawrence states, "Town crews will remain as diligent in our efforts to clean up storm debris, in the same way we have kept streets clean during the recent winter storms. The clean up process will take time and we appreciate everyone's patience as we manage debris removal and ongoing response to winter weather."



Summer Day Camp

Camp Registration begins March 1st for Blowing Rock Taxpayers and Open Enrollment begins March 15th. The camp is open to boys and girls from rising kindergarten (must be five years old and recently attended daycare) – sixth grade for seven weeks beginning June 14th. Most camp activities are held in downtown Blowing Rock. Applications are online at townofblowingrock.com. For more information contact Garryd Caliendo at 828-295-5222.

Public Works Welcomes New Employee



Eric Ford

Public Works Director Mike Wilcox announces the hiring of Eric Ford. Mr. Ford was hired December 28, 2009. He comes from Earl Ford Construction where he worked for 17 years. He is a graduate of Watauga High School and received his associates degree from Caldwell Community College. Eric and his wife Dena reside in the Blowing Rock area and have three children.

Wastewater Annual Report

The Town of Blowing Rock has released the 2009 System Performance Annual Report for the Collection System and Wastewater Treatment Plant. Copies may be picked up free of charge at Town Hall, 1036 Main Street. This report is also available online at: www.townofblowingrock.com.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact the Director of Plant Operations, Tom McRary at 828-295-5225.

Have You Paid Your 2009 Property Taxes?

To those who have not paid their 2009 Town of Blowing Rock property taxes, interest began accruing January 6, 2010. If you have questions about the assessed value of your property please contact Watauga County Tax Assessors Office at (828) 265-8041 or the Caldwell County Tax Assessors Office at (828) 757-1340. For your convenience you can now pay property taxes online at: www.townofblowingrock.com. For assistance or questions regarding your property tax bill or making online payments, please call Town Hall at (828) 295-5200 and we will be happy to assist you!



Blowing Rock P.D. Selects New Officers

Police Chief Eric Brown is pleased to announce the selection of two new officers to fill vacant positions within the department.



Officers Anthony Biard (right) and Graham West (left)

Anthony Biard was hired February 10, 2010. Mr. Biard received his B.S. in Criminal Justice from Appalachian State University, earning placement on the Dean's List and Chancellor's List. He completed an internship with the Police Department in the spring of 2009.

Gaining sponsorship from the Blowing Rock Police Department, he attended Basic Law Enforcement Training at Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh. Anthony graduated in the fall of 2009 receiving the highest grade in his class on the new state exam. He is single and resides in the Boone area.

Graham West was hired February 19, 2010. Mr. West attended the Basic Law Enforcement Training at Caldwell Community College in Hudson, where he graduated 3rd academically in his class of 14. He received the Top Gun award for being the best shooter of firearms in his class. Mr. West also is a graduate from the Western North Carolina Aviation program and has been a licensed private pilot since 2007.

Originally from the Asheville area, Graham and his wife Katie have one daughter and live in the Blowing Rock area.

Historic Markers to be Presented to Historic Properties

The 121st birthday of the Town of Blowing Rock on March 11th certainly marks an important event in the town's long history of celebrating its extraordinary legacy. Continuing the tradition begun last year by the Town, The Blowing Rock Historical Society and BRAHM (the Blowing Rock Art and History Museum), four plaques will be awarded to these significant properties:

- Chetola Resort
- The Blowing Rock Bank
- L.M. Tate Show Grounds
- Green Park Hotel Cottage restored by Pricilla and Oval Jaynes



Everyone is invited to the Birthday Party and presentation of markers in Town Hall on March 11, 2010 at 3:30 pm. Birthday cake and good wishes will make this a festive occasion. Please join us!